

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.:)
)
Filing Date:)
)
Applicant(s): Erich J. Vorenkamp et al.)
)
Group Art Unit:)
)
Title: Fuel Tank Assembly And)
Method Of Assembly)
)
Attorney Docket: 46107-0055)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- ☒ (a) within three months of the filing date of the patent application, (b) within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 of the international application, or (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- ☐ **after** (a), (b), or (c) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes:
 - ☐ the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below).
 - ☐ the fee of \$240 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
- ☐ **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, and includes the Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (see "Certification" below), a Petition requesting consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement (see "Petition" below), and the Petition Fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) (see "Fees" below).

Copies Of The References

- ☐ Copies of the references (other than cited U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications) listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith. Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).
- ☐ A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.
- ☐ The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

In re Appln. of Erich J. Vorenkamp et al.
Attorney Docket: 46107-0055

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (<i>check one</i>)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1. 0 /				
2. 0 /				
3. 0 /				

Other Applications

- ☐ The Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. patent application(s) (submitted herewith is a copy of each application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of each application which caused it to be listed including any claims directed to that portion):

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (<i>check one</i>)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1. 0 /				
2. 0 /				
3. 0 /				

Certification

- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ The **undersigned attorney** hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application or, to the knowledge of the attorney signing after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

In re Appln. of Erich J. Vorenkamp et al.
Attorney Docket: 46107-0055

Petition

- ☐ The undersigned attorney hereby petitions the Commissioner to consider this Information Disclosure Statement and the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

Fees

- ☒ No fee is owed by the applicant(s).

Authorization To Charge Additional Fees

- ☒ If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

Date: December 11, 2003

Suite 800
1901 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 457-0160

By: Douglas A. Mullen
Douglas A. Mullen
Reg. No. 38,569

DAM/gmp

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION*(Use several sheets if necessary)*

ATTY DOCKET NO.

46107-0055

SERIAL NO.

Erich J. Vorenkamp et al.

FILING

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2,809,399	10/1957	Mead et al.			
	3,238,346	3/1966	Savko			
	3,798,094	3/1974	Costa			
	3,923,580	12/1975	Leatherman			
	3,976,529	8/1976	Weichselbaum			
	4,035,547	7/1977	Heller, Jr. et al.			
	4,657,717	4/1987	Cattanach et al.			
	4,880,580	11/1989	Bowers et al.			
	4,961,796	10/1990	Perrin et al.			
	5,047,605	9/1991	Ogden			
	5,340,428	8/1994	Kodokian			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION*(Use several sheets if necessary)*

ATTY DOCKET NO.

46107-0055

SERIAL NO.

Erich J. V renkamp et al.

FILING

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,453,149	9/1995	Szczesniak			
	5,530,227	6/1996	Matsen et al.			
	5,770,296	6/1998	Remerowski et al.			
	5,935,475	8/1999	Scoles et al.			
	6,193,834 B1	2/2001	Smith			
	6,203,306 B1	3/2001	Inoue et al.			
	6,395,215 B1	5/2002	Distelhoff et al.			
	US 2001/0013516 A1	8/2001	Boecker			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.